

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 41 without prejudice, add new claims 46-58, and amend the claims as follows:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~21~~46, further comprising transmitting a signal from at least one sensor located below the tool and adjacent the downhole device, ~~wherein transmitting the signal is via the string and the an electrical transmission path across the tool that changes shape.~~

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein one or more of the at least one sensors measures temperature.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein one or more of the at least one sensors measures pressure.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein one or more of the at least one sensors measures chemical characteristics of a fluid around the drill bit.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~21~~46, wherein the downhole device is a thruster and actuating the thruster is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~21~~46, wherein the downhole device is a drilling hammer and actuating the drilling hammer is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~21~~46, wherein the downhole device is a stabilizer and actuating the stabilizer is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~214~~46, wherein the downhole device is a rotatable steering apparatus and actuating the rotatable steering apparatus is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~214~~46, wherein the downhole device is a vibrator and actuating the vibrator is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

31 - 45. (Cancelled)

46. (New) A method for communicating with a downhole device comprising:
positioning a tubular string in a wellbore, the tubular string including:
a signal transducing downhole device; and
an axially extendable signal conducting tool, having a flow path therethrough, located between the downhole device and an upper end of the tubular string; and
sending a signal between the downhole device and a location above the signal conducting tool, the signal traversing a path through the signal conducting tool wherein the path is physically separated from the fluid flow path.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the path includes a wall of the signal conducting tool.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein downhole device is a drill bit.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the downhole device is a vibrator and actuating the vibrator is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

50. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the downhole device is a rotatable steering apparatus and actuating the rotatable steering apparatus is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.